

SPROAT LAKE MARINE PATROL MAP



ALBERNI-CLAYOQUOT REGIONAL DISTRICT

www.acrd.bc.ca/slmp



@Sproatlakemarinepatrol



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SPROAT LAKE MARINE PATROL

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SPROAT LAKE MARINE PATROL

PROMOTING SAFE & ENJOYABLE MARINE CULTURE

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SPROAT LAKE MARINE PATROL

The Sproat Lake Marine Patrol was created in 2004 to establish a safe, enjoyable, and environmentally responsible marine culture for all users and residents of the Sproat Lake area.



The Sproat Lake Marine Patrol team strives to maintain an active presence on the lake, educate the public on how they can be more responsible on the water, assist those on the water and at the boat launch, and communicate with the community of the Alberni Valley both in person and through their online platforms.

While on Sproat Lake in summer, you might see the team on their red Zodiac as they monitor for unsafe boating practices, hazards in the water, boaters in need of assistance, wildfire hazards, and environmental concerns. The Sproat Lake Marine Patrol can also be found busy at the Sproat Lake Provincial Park boat launch, coordinating the use of launch and helping boaters launch more efficiently. The Sproat Lake Marine Patrol is a non-enforcement service focused on public education.

The Sproat Lake Marine Patrol works in partnership with Transport Canada and other resources throughout the Alberni Valley to educate the public on marine safety practices, lake etiquette, environmental initiatives, and general information about the Sproat Lake area. Along with the opportunity to educate the public at the boat launch, the Sproat Lake Marine Patrol effectively promotes a safe marine culture through social media and their school outreach program.

The Sproat Lake Marine Patrol is equipped with several safety essentials, including: a battery charger, a first aid kit, emergency fuel, spill pads, a fire extinguisher, fox 40s, a tow rope, and also carry lifejackets in various sizes, maps, and safety brochures that the public are encouraged to access at the Sproat Lake Provincial Park boat launch.

Sincere thank you to both c̓šaaʔath (Tseshaht) and Hupačasath (Hupacasath) First Nations for sharing their history, language and culture to be included in this brochure. Throughout this pamphlet many words and phrases of Nuučaanuṭ (Nuu-chah-nulth) language are included. Both Hupačasath and c̓šaaʔath Nations speak dialects of Nuučaanuṭ that has been the spoken language of Sproat Lake and area for thousands of years. These Nuučaanuṭ phrases and place names have been passed down through generations via oral history. The Sproat Lake area has been for centuries and continues to be a special place for spiritual use, hunting and plant gathering. The lake itself is an important habitat for precious salmon runs mainly miḡaat (sockeye salmon) which spawn in lake and tributaries.

This brochure is without prejudice to First Nations Aboriginal Title and Rights.

The Hupačasath haahuili [ha-houl-thee] (traditional territory) is approximately 229,000 hectares, which engulfs the whole Alberni Valley. The boundaries for this territory are basically the mountain peaks from the Alberni Valley, which start from the north at Mt. Chief Frank, from the south at 5040 Peak and Hannah Mountain, from the east at Mt. Arrowsmith and Mt. Spencer, and from the west from Big Interior Mountain. This territory contains some of the most valuable forest, fish and marine resources in the world.



For more information, please visit: Hupacasath.ca

c̓šaaʔath (Tseshaht) First Nation has over 1200 registered members whose haahuili [ha-houl-thee] (Chief's territory) includes from the Somass watershed including the entire Alberni Valley (including Sproat Lake), the western portions of both Horne Lake and Cameron Lake, the Alberni Inlet and surrounding lands and watersheds to the Broken Group Islands of central Barkley Sound, and out to the Pacific Ocean. Tseshaht possesses Aboriginal Rights within the haahuili [ha-houl-thee] (Chief's territory) owned by our yayii hawil [ty-ee ha-wil-th], including Aboriginal Title.

For more information, please visit: Tseshaht.com



IMPORTANT NUMBERS

The Sproat Lake Marine Patrol is non-enforcement and NOT a first responder service.

If you are experiencing an emergency please CALL 911

RCMP non-emergency
250-723-2424

ACRD office
250-720-2700

BC Provincial Park operator (R.L.C. Enterprise Ltd.)
250-474-1336

Environmental Emergencies (spill reporting)
1-800-663-3456

Report All Poachers and Polluters (or conflicts with wildlife that threaten public safety)
1-877-952-7277

Report wildfires
*5555 or 1-800-663-5555
Download the BC Wildfire Service app to stay up to date.

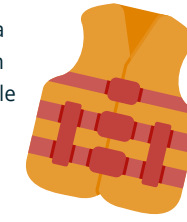
Report Invasive Species
250-871-5117

SAFE BOATING TIPS

- Ensure that all legal safety requirements are on board your vessel, in reach, and in good working order.
- Ensure that all passengers on board are wearing a properly fitted PFD/lifejacket at all times.
- Never operate a boat while impaired by alcohol, cannabis, or other drugs.
- Know your vessel and its capabilities before taking off.
- Always check the weather before your trip.
- Create a trip plan and share your plan with someone close to you.
- Familiarize yourself with the body of water you are on prior to your trip.

KIDS DON'T FLOAT, but PFDs do!

- Make sure that your child has a Canadian-approved lifejacket or personal flotation device (PFD).
- Have your child try it on. It should fit snugly and not ride up over the chin or ears. If there are more than 7.6 cm (3") between your child's shoulders and the device, it is too big and could do more harm than good.
- Children should always wear a lifejacket or PFD and be within your reach. Set a good example and wear yours every time you are on the water.



SPROAT LAKE PLACE NAMES

The place names used for this map and pamphlet were collected from various official and unofficial sources. Names sometimes change throughout time and some places have different names for different people. The Sproat Lake Marine Patrol put much effort into providing what we believe to be an accurate representation of Sproat Lake place names in 2024.

Battleship Island is halfway up Taylor Arm. It was at one time called *steamboat Island* because of its shape.

Great Central Lake was labelled "Central Lake" by Dr. Robert Brown for the Royal Geographical Society in 1864. The Nuučaanuṭ name ʕa-ʔuk-kuk muṭ-hui (Moo-hoonth-ah) meaning burned ground, refers to a forest fire that was caused by an electrical storm prior to the arrival of Europeans.

Devils Den Lake was formally called *Hidden Lake*, or the Nuučaanuṭ name "Klik-klik-nit", meaning "habitat of turtles."

Dog Mountain The Nuučaanuṭ name ʕiḡiyak (Ai-chi-uhk) translated by Sapir meaning 'for dogs' with reference to dogs being used to drive deer off the bluff or down to the shore for canoe men to shoot.

Fossil Provincial Park is on the south side of Stirling Arm. The Faber family, first European owners of the land, named it "Fossil," which means "waterfall in the valley" in Norwegian. In 1974 it was donated to the province to be used as a park.

Greenhouse Lake is a tiny lake behind Dog Mountain, on the flats between Two Rivers Arm and what the locals call "Windy Bay" on Taylor Arm. The Nuučaanuṭ name "ḡiq timi ʔat" (Chi-a-tim-ah) means you can drag your canoe over it (short cut around the mountain).

K'ak'awin Petroglyphs are nine ancient rock carvings available for viewing and are one of the finest panels of prehistoric petroglyphs in British Columbia. They may have been made by pecking the rock face but, as there are no marks on the rock, it has been suggested that the deep smooth grooves were made with a sharpened stick using wet sand as an abrasive. One of petroglyph images is of K'ak'awin, K'ak'awin is a word in Nuučaanuṭ that means "something stuck on its back." This is the word for the killer whale in reference to its dorsal fin.

The c̓šaaʔath First Nation describe the petroglyphs as a spiritual site carved by c̓šaaʔath deity Kwatyat, who is the culture-hero of the c̓šaaʔath, to have been the creator of all things and to have had the power of transforming himself into anything. Prayers, however, are not addressed to him. He is said to be still alive, but his dwelling-place is not known. The rock carvings or petroglyphs of animals and supernatural beings at Great Central Lake and Sproat Lake are supposed to have been made by him. The last thing known of him is that he took a river with him to the south.

The Hupačasath First Nation tell of a killer whale trapped in Sproat Lake after the large Tsunami of 1700. When it died, Hupačasath cut it open and found strange creatures in its belly. The petroglyphs were carved to depict this history and the sea creatures in the whale's belly.

WILDFIRE AND SPROAT LAKE

TAYLOR RIVER FIRE

The summer of 1967 was the driest on record since 1900 when records were first kept in the Alberni Valley. On August 16 a plume of smoke could be seen at the western end of Taylor Arm. This was the beginning of the Taylor River Fire, which would grow to 2,428 hectares. The fire destroyed Taylor River Bridge, cutting off the west coast area.

DOG MOUNTAIN FIRE

In the early afternoon hours of July 4, 2015, a billow of smoke could be seen near the peak of Dog Mountain on Sproat Lake. Residents of Sproat Lake watched closely, as what began as a four hectare fire, soon roared its way to be an approximated 425 hectares. For days, Port Alberni's sky was blanketed with an orange and yellow smog before the fire was able to be contained with controlled burning. The Dog Mountain Wildfire left a devastating impact on Sproat Lake, and it will take years for reforestation and habitats to thrive again.

Massacre Island is near the eastern end of the main arm of Sproat Lake. The Nuučaanuṭ name is "Chauk" or "Chu-uk", which means "island". It was named Massacre Island because of a battle between the Hupačasath First Nation and another Nation from the east side of Vancouver Island.

Mount Klitsa is southwest of Taylor Arm. The Nuučaanuṭ name ʕicaa "Kleet-sah" meaning "always white or White-on-Rock."

Smith's Landing was where George and Andrew Smith homesteaded in the 1880s. It is now the site of Sproat Lake Provincial Park.

Sproat Lake, River, Falls: Named after Gilbert Malcolm Sproat by Dr. Robert Brown for the Royal Geographical Society in 1864. The Nuučaanuṭ name for the lake ʕi kuut (Klee-Coot) meaning "wide open". The Nuučaanuṭ name for the falls is Tʕikuulth (Tu-quoilth) meaning "jumping area for fish".

Stirling Arm is Sproat Lake's southeastern arm, named for pioneer settlers, Walter and Frank Stirling. The Nuučaanuṭ name is ta-qamis (Thla-ka-miss)

Taylor River flows into the western end of Taylor Arm, the river and arm were named for Charles Taylor, who came to the Alberni Valley in the 1860s. The Nuučaanuṭ name for the arm is yu-kwi-cit (Yoo-kwi-chikh) which means windy. the mouth of Taylor River is named hi-ni-ʔas (Hin-neh-iss) which means "head of the lake"

Two Rivers Arm is the southern arm of Sproat Lake and is made up of the "two rivers" Gracie Creek and St. Dennis Creek. The Nuučaanuṭ name is yu-kwi-cit (Hoo-ah-mah)

Vanderbilt Island is at the junction of the four arms of Sproat Lake. The island has had several names. It was first called Arbutus Island. Gilbert M. Sproat dubbed it "Fire Island" after a fire disrupted his honeymoon there in 1863. Alfred Faber called it Dorothy Island in honour of his daughter who drowned. The first European owner was Sir Richard McBride, premier of B.C. from 1903-1915. In 1920, Cornelius Vanderbilt Jr. bought the island and named it after himself.

Ward Creek runs from Ward Lake into Weiner Bay. The Creek and lake are named for Matt Ward, who moved to the Alberni Valley in 1894.

Weiner Bay previously called *Brennan's Bay*, is the major bay on the northwest corner of the main part of Klee-coot Arm. It was named for Nels Weiner, a local settler who disappeared in 1944 after a mysterious explosion.

Yuḡ-k'wa-ni-ni (Yooch-kwa-neenee) comes from the Nuučaanuṭ word meaning "narrow passage". It is the passage connecting Sterling Arm to Two Rivers Arm.



Photo of Dog Mountain Fire taken by Owen Perry

WHAT CAN I USE WHEN THERE IS A CAMPFIRE BAN IN PLACE?

Campfire bans MAY allow the use of CSA-rated or ULC-rated cooking stoves that use gas, propane or briquettes, or a portable campfire apparatus that use briquettes, liquid fuel or gaseous fuel, with a maximum flame height of 15 cm tall. Other activities also prohibited: fireworks, fire crackers, sky lanterns, and binary exploding targets.

Stay up to date with what's happening on Sproat Lake and how you can be safer this summer by following the Sproat Lake Marine Patrol on social media:



@Sproatlakemarinepatrol

You can also connect with us via e-mail at: slmp@acrd.bc.ca

Or visit our website at: www.acrd.bc.ca/slmp



THE INVADERS OF THE LAKE

Over the last 10 years, Sproat Lake has seen an increase in a variety of invasive species.

Invasive species are plants, animals, and microorganisms that become established in areas outside their natural distribution and have negative impacts on the environment, people, and/or the economy. Invasive species can be introduced and spread in a variety of ways. Some key ways to protect aquatic ecosystems from invasive species are to clean, drain, and dry boats, clothing and other gear when moving between water bodies and to never release pets into the natural environment.

The species pictured below raise a concern in Sproat Lake as they reproduce rapidly and out-compete the native species that play a vital role in the balance of Sproat Lake's ecosystem.



Eurasian Water Milfoil



American Bullfrog



Pumpkin Seed Fish



Koi Fish



sacup (freshwater chinook)



hinkuuʔas (chum salmon)



cuwit (coho salmon)



miḡaat (ocean going sockeye)



hisit (freshwater sockeye)



qiwah (steelhead trout)



Rainbow Trout



Cutthroat Trout

REPORTING INVASIVE SPECIES

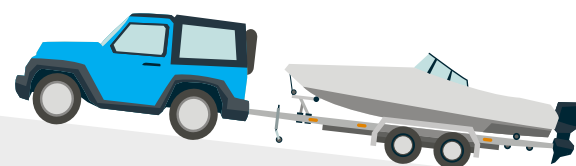
Report a species that may be harming Sproat Lake to Coastal Invasive Species Committee:

P: 250-871-5117 | E: info@coastalisc.com

The Coastal ISC covers the geographic areas of Vancouver Island, the Gulf Islands, Powell River and the Sunshine Coast.

BOAT LAUNCH PROTOCOL

- While at the boat launch at Sproat Lake Provincial Park, we ask that you have patience and respect others around you.
- The boat launch experiences high volumes and occasional waits are occasionally inevitable.
- The Sproat Lake Marine Patrol helps at the launch to assist boaters and provides coordination assistance to sustain traffic flow.
- We are happy to assist you at the launch to get everyone on and off the water safely and help keep the lake a safe and respectful environment for all users, homeowners, and workers.
- The launch is not a place to linger or socialize – wait your turn, do what you need to and move out of the way.
- No one should be subjected to violent, threatening, and abusive behaviour. This behaviour will be recorded and reported to the appropriate authority.

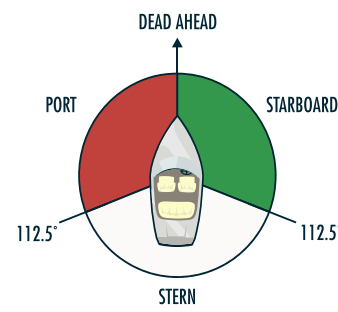


Prevent the Spread of Aquatic Invasive Species.

Stop aquatic hitchhikers by cleaning, draining, and drying all boats in between trips.

WHO HAS THE RIGHT OF WAY?

PORT: If a power-driven boat approaches your boat from the port sector, maintain your course and speed with caution. You are the *stand-on craft*.



STARBOARD: If any vessel approaches your boat from the starboard sector, you must keep out of its way. You are the *give-way craft*.

STERN: If any vessel approaches your boat from the stern, you should maintain your speed and course with caution. You are the *stand-on craft*.

BOATS PULLING PEOPLE: Boaters who are pulling any person behind the boat are given the right-of-way due to the possible inability to move out of the way.

POWER vs. SAIL: A power-driven vessel keeps clear of a sailing vessel.

BOATING ETIQUETTE

- Being part of the boating community means knowing and following good etiquette.
- We need to be good neighbours; help others when they need it, tidy up after ourselves, and be respectful to the people and environment around us.
- It doesn't matter if you prefer power, sail, or paddle - boaters help each other out. It could be as simple as offering to carry something on a dock or offering a seasoned word of advice, or something more serious like placing a distress call for someone in trouble. It's your job to look out for your fellow boaters.
- Watch your wake! You are legally responsible for any damage your wake causes to individuals, wharfs, and other boats, from any distance. Please minimize your wake and if you're wake surfing, choose a location away from docks and high-traffic areas.
- Travel near residences at a no-wake speed.
- If you see someone in trouble, always stop to help.